

FY 2009 Recovery Act: State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program: Combating Criminal Narcotics Activity Stemming from the Southern Border of the United States

Project Summary Category 1

Maricopa County, AZ—\$685,993

Maricopa County, in conjunction with the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department (MCAPD), will be awarded \$685,993 to control, reduce, and prevent criminal narcotics activity and drug-related crime and violence in the region along the United States-Mexican border. Maricopa County, 180 miles from the border, experiences many of the direct and indirect problems caused by illegal narcotics activity.

Maricopa County and MCAPD will use their funds to apprehend defaulting probationers charged with or convicted of drug-related offenses by creating five jobs within the Fugitive Apprehension Unit (FAU). Currently, FAU must give priority to cases involving sex offences, people and property crime, and other cases deemed to present a higher potential for violence or danger to the community. This leaves a large portion of drug-related cases, which are only worked when additional information or resources become available. The five additional FAU officers will target drug-related probationers, which could yield up to 1,200 arrests of individuals with outstanding warrants for probation violation. Without the five FAU officers, reducing the number of outstanding warrants and clearing new warrants will not be possible.

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City of Robstown, TX—\$472,626

The City of Robstown, in conjunction with the Robstown Police Department (RPD), will receive \$472,626 to control, reduce, and prevent criminal narcotics activity, including drug-related crime and violence along the United States-Mexican border. Illicit narcotics and human cargo are frequently transported through Robstown and its environs; thus, this area experiences problems and concerns similar to those of communities located directly on the border. As a member of the South Texas Law Enforcement Coalition (STLEC), moreover, RPD works to reduce the amount of narcotics, weapons, and human cargo moving through STLEC's jurisdiction.

RPD's goals for this project are to intercept and seize narcotics, weapons, human cargo, illicit contraband, and U.S. currency, as well as intercept and prosecute those individuals transporting these items. In addition, the department will use grant funds to control violence in its jurisdiction associated with the illicit narcotics market. RPD's efforts, however, are hindered by understaffing, insufficient data analysis resources, and a lack of technology that the other five STLEC agencies already have in place.

To accomplish its goals, RPD will use grant funds to 1) purchase mobile data link (MDL) systems (which allow officers and

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dispatchers to enter and access real-time information and data) for officers' vehicles. MDL's GPS feature enhances officer safety; 2) provide patrol vehicles with automated license recognition systems (which read, store, and search license tag records, allowing an officer to know if a license tag is from a stolen vehicle); and 3) hire two new police officers and one new crime analyst (which will improve the interception, apprehension, and prosecution of narcotics, weapons, and human cargo traffickers).

City of Albuquerque, NM— \$826,422

The City of Albuquerque, in conjunction with the Albuquerque Police Department (APD), will be awarded \$826,422 to control, reduce, and prevent criminal narcotics activity, including drug-related crime and violence along the Southern border region of the United States. APD's High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Narcotics/Gang Enforcement Program 1) combats criminal narcotics activity stemming from the United States-Mexican border and 2) reduces the number of Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) in the Albuquerque area. To achieve these goals, the department will use funds to hire 1) two certified narcotics detectives; 2) additional detectives, who will allow APD to take more proactively combat DTOs; and 3) three civilian employees (an intelligence analyst, a gang coordinator, and a gun trace coordinator), who will provide timely, accurate, and accessible intelligence. APD will also purchase a cell phone tracking system, which will help it investigate narcotics networks. The new personnel and technology will improve intelligence sharing both within APD and between APD and other agencies,

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thus helping reduce the number of DTOs.

City of Durham, NC—\$724,497

The City of Durham, in conjunction with the Durham Police Department's Triangle High-Intensity Drug Traffic Area (HIDTA), under Atlanta's HIDTA, will receive \$724,497 to control, reduce, and prevent criminal narcotics activity, including drug-related crime and violence in a HIDTA in order to combat illegal narcotics activity stemming from the United States-Mexican border.

The Triangle HIDTA will improve its intelligence collection capabilities in order to identify DTOs operating in their area, disrupt the DTOs' operations, reduce drug-related crimes, and increase community security.

As North Carolina becomes an important center for drug distribution and money collection for Mexican DTOs, the dangers associated with illegal drugs has also increased in Durham and the surrounding communities. To combat this threat and meet the project's goals, the police department's Triangle HIDTA will use funds to establish and advertise a Spanish-language drug trafficking tip-line. This tip-line will be staffed by trained Spanish-speaking interpreters 12 hours a day. It will also allow greater collection of intelligence and the development of confidential sources within the Hispanic community. Funds will also be used to create an intelligence database and to hire an intelligence analyst, who would analyze and disseminate information to

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narcotics officers across North Carolina.

City of Albuquerque, NM—\$893,750

The City of Albuquerque, in conjunction with the Second Judicial District Attorney's Office (SJDAO), will receive \$893,750 to assess the prevalence of narcotics-related violence in the Albuquerque area and decrease its impact on the community. Funds will further be used to create six jobs dedicated to identifying, indicting, and prosecuting these types of crimes.

In 2008, close to 48 percent of felony cases in SJDAO involved violence or narcotics. Research indicated that violence and narcotics tend to co-occur in Albuquerque. This project aims to combat narcotics-related violence by hiring two prosecutors, two investigators, and two prosecution specialists, who will be dedicated to prosecuting these offenses. The new staff will accelerate prosecutions and increase communication between law enforcement and prosecutors working with drug-related violent crime.

Funds will be used to conduct quarterly data analysis of narcotics-related violent offenses to determine this program's effectiveness.

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City of Arlington, TX—\$1,138,984

The City of Arlington, in conjunction with Arlington Police Department, will be awarded \$1,138,984 to combat criminal narcotics activity stemming from southern border of the United States. To achieve this goal, the department will create a Domestic Highway Enforcement Unit (DHE). This unit's mission will be to focus on reducing the amount of drug-related crimes and violence and the amount of narcotics transported into the area, while increasing the number of drug seizures.

Arlington and the surrounding North Texas High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (NTHIDTA) have seen an increase in homicides, gun- and drug-related offenses, and gang activity. DHE will fight this trend, which stems primarily from illegal narcotics activity at the United States-Mexican border. To create DHE, the police department will hire four officers, one of who will be a K-9 handler, and a police dog trained to detect illegal narcotics. The unit will monitor highways within NTHIDTA, conducting traffic stops and searching motor carriers and coaches. DHE will be able to share intelligence information with the El Paso Intelligence Center and other NTHIDTA agencies, facilitating increased reporting, dissemination, and response to drug trafficking intelligence.

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Santa Cruz County— \$457,006

Santa Cruz County, in conjunction with the Santa Cruz County Attorney's Office (SCCAO), will receive \$457,006 to control, reduce, and prevent criminal narcotics activity, including drug-related crime and violence along the United States' Southern border. Because of its location directly on the United States-Mexican border, Santa Cruz sees a great deal of criminal narcotics activity. During 2007–2008, for instance, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol seized more than 285 million lb of marijuana and more than 175 thousand lb of cocaine in Santa Cruz—data demonstrating the need for aggressive intelligence-led policing, investigation, and prosecution.

SCCAO will fund three jobs dedicated to investigating drug-related crime and violence; analyzing and implementing data-driven strategies to reduce drug-related crime and violence; and prosecuting the perpetrators. It will also implement technology and training programs aimed at improving its intelligence gathering and sharing capacity and prosecutorial and interdiction support. Finally, SSCAO will enhance its management practices to support an Intelligence-Led Policing multijurisdictional and multidisciplinary information sharing system. Through job creation, intelligence gathering and sharing, and Intelligence-Led Policing, SSCAO aims to eradicate criminal narcotics from Santa Cruz.

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Arizona Department of Public Safety— \$1,462,256

The Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZDPS), on behalf of the AZDPS Crime Laboratory System, will receive \$1,462,256 to combat criminal narcotics activity stemming from the Southern border of the United States. Grant funds will 1) create and preserve jobs and 2) minimize and avoid reductions in essential crime lab services.

Arizona is a major pipeline for illegal drugs coming into the United States. As such, the AZDPS Crime Labs play a vital role in combating narcotics-related crime; they analyze drug trafficking and money laundering evidence and identify suspects involved with these crimes. While the number of drug cases submitted to the labs has risen over the past 10 years, the number of lab analysts has not. Because of Arizona's budget deficit, eight positions are vacant at the labs and another seven will be terminated in FY 2010. This grant will allow the labs to make up the loss, saving the seven analyst positions and adding an additional eight. Preserving these positions and filling new ones allows Arizona's crime labs to continue playing an important role in the fight against drug-related crime and violence.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice— \$4,946,732

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Community Justice Assistance Division (TDCJ-CJAD), will receive \$4,946,732 to

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reduce and prevent criminal narcotics activity through the use of aftercare programs for probationers who have successfully completed residential substance abuse treatment programs.

Approximately 51 percent of the Texas's probationers are under community supervision for substance-related offenses; many undergo treatment in a residential substance abuse treatment program. Research has demonstrated that aftercare programs for those who complete a residential program greatly increase their success rate (and the program's). While some residential programs include an aftercare component, however, the majority of probationers do not receive aftercare. Grant funds will allow TDCJ-CJAD to provide aftercare to many probationers who have graduated from residential treatment. Specifically, TDCJ-CJAD will fund 22 aftercare community supervision officer positions, 10 treatment staff positions, and 3 administrative positions.

Cameron County, TX— \$2,251,942

Cameron County, in conjunction with the Cameron County Sheriff's Department (CCSD), will receive \$2,251,942 to control, reduce, and prevent criminal narcotics activity, including drug-related crime and violence, along the United States' Southern border. Specifically, the department aims to reduce drug and arms trafficking, money laundering, and drug-related crime and

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violence.

Cameron County, situated on the United States-Mexican border, has a high incidence of narcotics and arms trafficking, money laundering, and drug-related crime and violence. To fight these crimes, CCSD will use grant funds to hire 12 law enforcement officers and 1 clerk, all of whom will be assigned to the sheriff's Special Investigation Unit (SIU). SIU will combat drug and arms trafficking along the border and reduce money laundering, drug-related crime, and community violence. CCSD will also use funds to outfit these new officers with appropriate equipment and vehicles. New officers and equipment will allow the department to broaden its scope of operation and better combat illicit narcotics.

Pharr Police Department, TX—\$686,801

The Pharr Police Department (PPD) will receive \$686,801 to respond to, control, reduce, and prevent criminal narcotics activity and drug-related crime and violence in their community. Pharr has an International Bridge Port of Entry (POE) that serves both Pharr and Reynosa, Mexico, its sister city across the border. Escalating violence in Reynosa poses increased safety and security risks at the POE and for the citizens of Pharr.

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PPD's project goals are to create a multilayer and multiagency approach to preventing individuals from smuggling drugs, firearms, and currency across the border, and to apprehend perpetrators. PPD will fund 1) two K-9 officers, who will search vehicles and individuals crossing at the Pharr POE and 2) a crime analyst to reevaluate the department's policies and procedures and establish a policy of interdepartmental information sharing. In addition, PPD will upgrade its surveillance and connectivity to better identify and combat drug-related activities at the Pharr POE.

Anthony Police Department, TX—\$319,264

The Anthony Police Department (APD), in conjunction with the West Texas High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area's (HIDTA) the El Paso Multi-Agency Task Force (EPMATF), will receive \$319,264 to control, reduce, and prevent criminal narcotics activity, including drug-related crime and violence along the United States' Southern border. Anthony is located on the state line between Texas and New Mexico *and* on the United States-Mexico border, a location that makes it vulnerable to drug-related crime and violence.

Using undercover officers and communication interception to gather intelligence, EPMATF aims to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) operating in the El Paso corridor. With grant funding, APD will hire two new law enforcement

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officers (one of which will be a K-9 officer) to work with EPMATF, and provide the task force with necessary equipment and technology. More personnel and enhanced equipment should significantly improve EPMATF's narcotics investigation and enforcement capabilities.

Pima County Attorney's Office, AZ—\$1,285,040

The Pima County Attorney's Office (PCAO) will receive \$1,285,040 to control, reduce, and prevent criminal narcotics activity, including drug-related crime and violence along United States' Southern border. Pima County shares a 127-mile-long border with Mexico. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) estimated from a National Drug Threat Assessment that *50–60 percent of drugs entering the United States come through Pima County*; as a result, Pima County suffers from high rates of drug-related crime and violence. The area, moreover, has seen an increase in drug, fugitive, and firearms smuggling and in drug-related home invasions.

PCAO will use its grant funding to establish a Border Crime Prosecution Unit that will save three positions and create five full-time and two part-time prosecutorial positions within the PCAO. These veteran and new staff are necessary to provide sufficient prosecutorial resources to combat drug-related crime and violence. Grant funding will also be used to implement an Intelligence-

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led Policing methodology, which will allow PCAO and law enforcement to more easily collect, analyze, and share information about area crime trends. These improvements, moreover, will reduce gaps in communication and collaboration between PCAO and other law enforcement agencies and provide sufficient training and human resources to law enforcement agencies.

Project Summary Category 2

Webb County, TX—\$783,615

Webb County, in conjunction with the Webb County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), will receive \$783,615 to combat criminal narcotics activity along the United States' Southern border through enhancement of its county jail management and intelligence gathering capabilities. Located on the United States-Mexican border, the county is inundated with members of Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs).

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards conducted a staffing analysis of the Webb County Jail (WCJ) and determined that the jail was very understaffed. Using grant funds, WCSO will hire seven new detention officers and purchase needed equipment for WCJ, improvements that will enable Webb County to implement Intelligence-led jail management. This type of jail management in turn will increase the amount of drugs, cash, and other assets that WCJ seizes, further disrupting DTOs.

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Pima County Adult Probation Department, AZ—\$841,150

The Pima County Adult Probation Department (PCAPD) will receive \$841,150 to develop a program to reduce recidivism and substance abuse among a high-risk community corrections population that suffers from substance abuse. Many of Pima County's probationers have been assessed to be at a heightened risk of reoffending. Adding to this problem, many probationers do not receive adequate community supervision—in fact, a recent analysis determined that 530 high-risk offenders were being supervised with medium-risk probationers and needed more supervision and support. Grant funds will target substance abusers (at a heightened risk to reoffend) through the Drug Involvement Reversal Through Education, Control, and Treatment (DIRECT) Program; these probationers will receive adequate supervision, substance abuse counseling, critical thinking skills training, and education classes, as well as frequent drug testing. DIRECT will allow PCAPD to retain three and create five new positions, all of which will work with high-risk probationers.

DIRECT will offer three levels of control, decreasing in intensity as an individual progresses through the program. Each level consists of field and office contacts, cognitive skills and educational classes, and treatment and support groups. Implementing DIRECT and hiring additional staff will enable 100 high-risk probationers to become contributing members of society.

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Travis County Adult Probation Department—\$287,500

The Travis County Adult Probation Department (TCAPD) will receive \$287,500 to control, reduce, and prevent criminal narcotics activity, including drug-related crime and violence stemming from narcotics activity along the United States' Southern border. Approximately 93 percent of Travis County's felony arrests involve crack and cocaine. Thus, TCAPD probation supervision strategies must identify and address substance abuse.

TCAPD seeks to bolster the county community corrections response by retaining five tenured adult probation officers. Retaining these officers will allow the department to expand the use of the Travis Community Impact Supervision (TCIS) Program. The officers will continue to work with the community's Specialized Substance Abuse caseload and High-Risk (Gang) caseload, 76 percent of which have a history of criminal narcotics activity. The probation officers, moreover, will further TCAPD's mission to expand collaborative relationships with law enforcement intelligence departments that focus on narcotics and gangs. The officers will continue to take part in roundtable discussions and task forces focused on combating narcotics-related activities. Finally, funding to retain these probation officers will allow TCAPD to maintain community safety standards by continuing community supervision services for high-risk offenders.

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Project Summary Category 3

Arizona Attorney General— \$2,911,082

The Arizona Attorney General's Office (AAGO) will receive \$2,911,082 to control, reduce, and prevent criminal narcotics activity, including drug-related crime and violence along the Southern border of the United States. Arizona has been inundated with drug-related crimes and violence, including drug smuggling and human smuggling from Mexico into the United States through Arizona and arms trafficking and money laundering from the Arizona into Mexico. Because of state budget shortfalls, the AAGO has seen a drastic reduction in funding for prosecution positions that combat drug-related criminal activities.

The AAGO will use grant funds to create a Drug Prosecution Program (DPP). DPP will retain nine current prosecutor and staff positions and add five new critical-mission positions. In addition, the program will provide attorneys with necessary training to stay abreast of current legal issues. While law enforcement must continue to fight criminal narcotics, prosecutors also must have the resources to convict perpetrators. DPP will collaborate with state and local agencies that have applied for Recovery Act funding to ensure that law enforcement efforts are followed up with effective prosecution.